THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Preliminary projections of crude production from the Southern region by 1995 are of the order of 2.05 million tonnes. The firm estimates of the production from this region, as also from the other regions, will, however, be known only, after 8th Plan is finalised.

The following steps, *inter-alia*, have been taken to increase the production of crude oil:

— Intensification of exploration, which may eventually lead to enhanced production.

— Intensification of work-over operations.

— Use of enhanced oil recovery techneques.

Sick and closed industries

1292. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of sick and closed industries as on the 31st March, 1988 alongwith the specific steps to arrest the mounting sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Data on sick industrial units assisted by Banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India and data on closures is maintained by the Ministry of Labour. As per the latest information available from Reserve Bank of India, the total number of sick units, both large and small, as at the end of June 1987 are 1,59,283. As per the latest available provisional information from Ministry of Labour, the number of units that were permanently closed was 173 during 1987 and 57, during January-August, 1988.

Government of India have taken a number of steps for the revival of sick industrial units in the country. Some of the important steps are as follows:

(i) The Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely, "The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985." A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)' has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(iii) the banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI both in large and small scale sectors.

(v) Government of India introduced a Marginal Money Scheme with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per unit available to sick small scale units for rehabilitation has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs 50,000.